

Commander's Call Topics



Sept. 16, 2011

"As we work together in building an even brighter tomorrow, please join us in proudly celebrating the 64th birthday of the United States Air Force. As always, we sincerely thank you and your families for all that you do." – Message From Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy to the Airmen of the U.S. Air Force concerning the Air Force's 64th birthday September 18.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force completes action on 2005 BRAC](#)

After more than six years of execution, the Air Force successfully completed its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure program, Air Force officials announced Sept. 15.

[Air Force wraps up critical days of summer](#)

During the 15-week campaign, the Air Force experienced 18 fatalities -- all of them in off-duty mishaps.

[Officials announce colonel selective early retirement board eligibility](#)

As previously announced May 27, the Air Force will convene a selective early retirement board for colonels to further size and balance the force within the congressionally authorized 332,800 end-strength level.

[Air Force vice chief testifies on GO, SES numbers](#)

The Air Force vice chief of staff provided the Air Force perspective on general officer and senior executive service civilian authorizations to the Senate Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Personnel here Sept. 14.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force ROTC unit established at Yale](#)

The secretary of the Air Force and the president of Yale University signed an agreement here Sept. 12 establishing an Air Force ROTC detachment on the campus, which marks a renewed presence at Yale for the Air Force.

[AF libraries offer online learning resources](#)

School is back in session and Air Force libraries worldwide offer online learning resources for students of all ages.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[374th CS, 374th CES "connect" to help fellow Airman](#)

When an Airman here needed his room renovated to support a device that would monitor his heart, several squadrons came together to lend a helping hand.

► TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force officials tackle current, future energy needs](#)

Air Force officials have developed an Air Force energy program to support its multi-faceted mission to "Fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace."

► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<https://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Website

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

September 11, 1953

A Sidewinder N-7 (AIM-9) air-to-air missile made its first successful interception, sending a Grumman F6F-5K Hellcat drone down in flames at China Lake, Calif.

September 12, 1918

Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell led 1,481 planes in the St. Mihiel offensive lasting through Sep. 15. This was the biggest air armada to date.

September 13, 1951

The U.S. Air Force established its first pilotless bomber squadron at the Missile Test Center, Cocoa, Fla.

September 14, 1944

Col. Floyd B. Wood, Maj. Harry Wexler, and Lt. Frank Recford made the first flight into a hurricane to collect scientific data in a Douglas A-20.

September 15, 2001

In the first five days after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, 35 Air National Guard fighter units supplied 603 sorties while the 18 ANG tanker wings flew 72 sorties to offload 3.2 million pounds of fuel during Operation Noble Eagle.

September 16, 1960

From Cape Canaveral, Fla., a 1.5-ton reentry nose cone on an Atlas missile flew on a 5,000-mile test flight.

September 17, 1908

Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, flying as a passenger with Orville Wright, died when the Wright Flyer crashed at Fort Myer, Va. This event was the world's first fatal airplane accident and Lt. Selfridge was the first military casualty. Mr. Wright also received serious injuries.

September 17, 2002

The last B-1B left the 116th Bomb Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, at Robins AFB, Ga., to the "bone yard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Later the 116th merged with the U.S Air Force's 93rd Air Control Wing to form the 116th Air Control Wing, the Air Force's first "blended wing," and fly the E-8C JSTARS.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

The Defense Media Activity produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this or any other DMA product, send e-mail to afproducts@dma.mil. To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to www.af.mil/information/subscribe.